MARVEL

VOL 4

NEW MUTANTS®

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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MARVEL

VOL 4

NEW MUTANTS®

AFTER ONE DISASTROUS MISSION TOO MANY, THE NEW MUTANTS HAVE BEEN TORN APART.

But rather than disband the team, Cyclops gives them a new leader and a new mission: to settle the X-Men's unfinished business – the lost mutants and threats that have slipped through the cracks. Now led by Dani Moonstar, the revitalized New Mutants are ready for anything – or so they think. But their first assignment – to track down Nate Grey, the reality-warping mutant known as X-Man – will test their mettle against one of the most dangerous creatures on two worlds!

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Collecting *New Mutants #25-28* — written by **Dan Abnett** and **Andy Lanning** (*War of Kings*), and illustrated by **Leandro Fernandez** (*Punisher*) and Michael Ryan (*X-Men: Manifest Destiny*).

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MARVEL

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ABNETT
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MOSSA

NEW DIRECTION!

NEW MUTANTS

"UNFINISHED BUSINESS"

PART 1

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PART 1

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OKAY...

...LET'S GO.

TECHSUS AUTOMOTIVE ASSEMBLY PLANT, MISSION BAY, SAN FRANCISCO

NO ONE-ON-ONE. ONLY MULTIPLE ATTACKERS.

MOVE YOURSELVES.

WHOA.

I WOULD SAY THIS PLANT IS ALREADY *TAKEN OVER,* PRETTY MUCH.

THEN THE POLICE WERE *RIGHT* TO CALL IN THE X-MEN.

WE DON'T TAKE CHANCES WITH *NIMROD* TECH.

AND THE LOCAL P.D. *SAW* WHAT THE NIMRODS DID TO SAN FRAN.

BUT AN *AUTO PLANT?*

FULLY AUTOMATED. PLENTY OF SYSTEMS TO CORRUPT AND *CONVERT. MANUFACTURING* POTENTIAL.

I DOUBT WE'RE LOOKING FOR AN *INTACT* UNIT. PROBABLY JUST A *FRAGMENT,* USING THE PLANT RESOURCES TO SELF-REPAIR AND *REBUILD.*

AND *DEFEND* ITSELF!

EVEN A *FRAGMENT* IS DANGEROUS. *RECONSTRUCTING* IS WHAT IT DOES.

THIS THING--

SPREAD OUT. FIND IT AND *CONTAIN IT* WHILE IT'S WEAK AND ITS CAPABILITIES ARE STILL *INCOMPLETE!*

GIRL GIVES A LOT OF ORDERS.

IS SHE WRONG?

NEVER SAID THAT.

S'JUST I'M SUPPOSED TO BE RUNNING THIS PLAY.

I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE I PREFER DANI.

SHE CERTAINLY SMELLS BETTER.

I HEARD THAT.

I THINK IT'S NICE TO BE HERE WITH DANI AND THE OTHERS. IT IS LIKE *OLD DAYS.*

I JUST WISH *ILLYANA* WAS HERE TOO.

JUST GET IT DONE. STOP GROUSIN' ABOUT YOUR SISTER.

MOONSTAR, WHAT'S THE SCORE?

TUKKA TUKKA TUKKA

LOCATING THE SOURCE.

GOOD THING I'M WATCHING YOUR ASS, DANNY.

WAIT A SECOND...

WARLOCK?

I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO PINPOINT THE EPICENTER.

SELF IS TRYING, SELF/FRIEND DANI.

MALICIOUS CODE DETECTED THROUGHOUT THIS STRUCTURE. IT IS CONFUSING SELF AND--

--WAIT! THERE IS THE CODE SOURCE!

OH, YOU THINK?

YES, I'D SAY WE'VE FOUND THE FOCUS.

AND I'D SAY WE'VE GOT ITS *ATTENTION.*

DE-CLAW IT! BLUNT ITS *OFFENSIVE CAPACITY!*

WE WANT IT *ISOLATED* AND *CONTAINABLE!*

YEAH.

WHAT *SHE* SAID.

INTERESTING.

WHAT IS, KID?

THE PERSONNEL DECISIONS CYCLOPS MADE FOR THIS MISSION...

...IT MUST BE COINCIDENCE, BUT THIS ***PARTICULAR*** CUT INCLUDES EVERYONE WHO HAS A PARTICULAR ***EMOTIONAL*** TIE TO ILLYANA.

OH, NO...

YOU PUT THE *WORLD* IN GREAT DANGER, FOR THE SAKE OF A *PERSONAL VENDETTA.*

THERE WAS CERTAINLY A RISK OF REALITY BEING ERASED.

BUT IT WAS A CAUSE I HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR FOR AS LONG AS I CAN *REMEMBER,* CYCLOPS.

IT WAS *ENTIRELY* BOUND UP IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE REALM OF LIMBO.

THE NECESSITY *DEFINED* ME.

AN *OBSESSION.*

YES, IN THE SENSE OF A *CONSUMING PASSION.*

THEY WERE THINGS THAT WE MIGHT REGARD AS *GODS.* IT'S NOT AN *EXACT* WORD, BUT IT'LL DO.

EVIL, *DAEMONIC* GODS, WHO WERE AT THE CORE OF EVERY BAD THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO ME.

THEY *HAD* TO BE DESTROYED.

THAT'S THE *POINT.*

THE ELDER GODS WERE A FUNDAMENTAL, ESCHATOLOGICAL *THREAT.*

AND YOU ENGAGED WITH THAT THREAT *PERSONALLY.*

I WAS UNIQUELY PLACED TO DO SO.

YOU MOVED ON IT *INDEPENDENTLY.* YOU MANIPULATED THE *HELL* OUT OF THE X-MEN.

YOU *USED* US.

YOU ALSO RISKED, AND CAME CLOSE TO *DESTROYING,* ALL *REALITY.*

I UNDERSTAND THE STAKES WERE HIGH.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND HOW *RECKLESS* IT WAS? YOU WERE SO SINGLE-MINDED IN YOUR DESIRE TO ANNIHILATE THE ELDER GODS, *EVERYTHING* BECAME SUBSERVIENT TO THAT NEED.

YOUR FRIENDS. YOUR FAMILY. THE X-MEN. THE WORLD. *EVERYTHING.*

AND I DID IT. IT WAS *WORTHWHILE.*

DO YOU EXPECT... I DON'T KNOW... A REPRIMAND? PROBATION?

YOU DO UNDERSTAND HOW RISKY HAVING YOU AROUND IS FOR US? YOU DON'T BELIEVE WE SHOULD *REGARD* YOU AS A RISK?

NOT AT ALL. I'M *DONE* WITH IT. I'M FINISHED.

I WON'T *EVER* DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT AGAIN, BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING *LEFT* TO DO.

I *DESTROYED* THEM. I DID WHAT I *SET OUT* TO DO.

WITH NO REGRETS.

NONE. I'M *SORRY* FOR THE DANGER I PUT EVERYONE IN, BUT I DON'T *REGRET IT.*

IT *HAD* TO BE DONE.

SO... YOU'D DO IT *AGAIN?*

NO. I EXPLAINED. I DON'T *HAVE* TO. IT'S OVER. IT'S DONE. I HAVE *CLOSURE.*

I REPRESENT NO FURTHER HARM TO THE WORLD OR THE X-MEN.

ALL I'D LIKE TO DO IS LIVE A *NORMAL* LIFE NOW. TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THIS *REMNANT* OF SOUL I POSSESS.

I APPRECIATE IT WILL BE *HARD* FOR YOU TO TRUST ME. IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT IF I'VE BEEN THIS RECKLESS *ONCE*, I WON'T BE AGAIN.

BUT I AM DONE WITH IT, AND IT IS FINISHED. AND YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES WILL *NOT* ARISE AGAIN.

I BELIEVE *YOU* BELIEVE THAT, ILLYANA.

BUT IT *IS* HARD. I'VE SEEN TOO MANY PEOPLE CHEWED UP BY OBSESSIONS AND QUESTS. EVEN WHEN THEY'RE DONE, THEY *STAY* DAMAGED.

THAT'S NOT ME, BUT I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'D FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT THAT *ANYONE* COULD FIND CLOSURE AFTER THEY'D BEEN AS *FAR* AS ME.

YES. AND THAT'S WHY WE NEED TO *RESTRAIN* YOU.

YES, I SEE. I SEE THAT. AS A LEADER, THAT'S THE *ONLY* OPTION YOU HAVE.

I'M GLAD YOU APPRECIATE THE SITUATION, ILLYANA.

I'M GLAD NO ONE HAD TO GET HURT.

UTOPIA, THE INFIRMARY.

READY FOR THE NEXT ONE?

TRIANGLE...

HI.

YOU BROUGHT FACE TO UTOPIA.

HE'S GOING TO TAKE A LOT OF CARE. JUST *CONNECTING* IS HARD.

AND SUPERVISION. HE'S--

HE'S POTENTIALLY *VERY* DANGEROUS, SHAN.

IT'S NOT JUST UP TO YOU TO SAVE HIM.

I KNOW.

RIGHT NOW, FACE *NEEDS* ME.

AND SAM NEEDS *YOU.*

SAM?

HEY. I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU FOR A *WHILE.*

I WAS SUPPOSED TO REPORT TO CYCLOPS, BUT *COLOSSUS* CUT IN LINE.

I HEARD WHAT HAPPENED THIS MORNING WITH ILLYANA.

I'M GUESSING PETER WAS *MAD.*

THERE *HAS* BEEN SOME SHOUTING.

YOU FOUND IT? *NHH.* THE NIMROD FRAGMENT?

FOUND IT. CONTAINED IT. BROUGHT IT BACK HERE FOR *FULL* DISASSEMBLY.

IT WAS FEISTY, BUT IT WAS *WEAK.*

JOB DONE.

JOB DONE.

SAM...

THIS FEELS LIKE I'M VISITING YOU IN *JAIL.*

MY CHOICE. IT WAS *MY* CHOICE.

I *REQUESTED* A BED IN THE SECURE WARD. I *REQUESTED* PSYCHIATRIC OBSERVATION.

I WANT TO BE *WELL* AGAIN.

YOU *WILL* BE.

YES. SO I'M DOING THE RIGHT THING.

YOU *MADE* THE SECOND GENERATION X-MEN WHAT THEY ARE. *YOUR* LEADERSHIP.

FROM *FRESHMEN* TO *GRADUATES.*

IT FEELS WRONG TO BE IN THE FIELD WITHOUT *YOU* IN CHARGE.

DO I LOOK LIKE I COULD LEAD *ANYTHING,* DANI?

EVERYTHING WITH LIMBO, THE WHOLE LEGION REALITY THING...

I'M A MESS. I NEED TIME TO *HEAL.*

YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK?

I THINK MAYBE I WAS THE LEADER THE TEAM NEEDED *WHILE* THEY MATURED. *THAT* WAS THE ROLE I HAD TO FULFILL.

I HAD TO HOLD US TOGETHER WHILE WE *GREW UP*. NOW WE NEED A *DIFFERENT* KIND OF LEADER TO DO A *DIFFERENT* KIND OF THING.

BUT--

SAM, I HAVE THIS BAD FEELING THERE *IS* NO TEAM ANYMORE.

NO ILLYANA. NO SHAN. NO *YOU*.

I THINK THAT'S WHY CYCLOPS WANTS TO SEE ME. I THINK HE'S GOING TO BREAK US UP AND *REASSIGN* US.

WELL, IT'S CYCLOPS'S CALL.

JUST TELL ME...WHATEVER HAPPENS FROM HERE, DO I STILL GET TO DO THIS SOMETIMES?

DO WH--

YEAH.

OH, YEAH.

OKAY THEN.

THIS IS NOT OVER, SCOTT!

UH, KNOCK KNOCK.

DANI. COME IN.

GOOD JOB WITH THE NIMROD.

THANK YOU.

IS COLOSSUS--

HE'S FINE. WELL...

HE'LL COME AROUND.

FOR NOW THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO KEEPING ILLYANA UNDER *PERMANENT* ARREST.

I UNDERSTAND.

GOOD.

AND I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE DISSOLVING THE TEAM.

YOU *DO*, HUH?

IT'S THE *SENSIBLE CHOICE.* SAM'S TOO BADLY *DAMAGED* TO TAKE ON ANY FORMAL ROLE.

DESPITE HER CALM PROTESTATIONS, ILLYANA IS A *MASSIVE* POTENTIAL THREAT.

KARMA WANTS TO STEP DOWN TO COME TO TERMS WITH HER INJURY, AND TO SUPPORT FACE.

WELL, SEEING AS YOU UNDERSTAND ALL OF THOSE THINGS *SO COMPLETELY,* IT MAY SURPRISE YOU TO LEARN THAT I'M NOT DISSOLVING THE TEAM.

I *UNDERSTAND* THEM.

I DIDN'T SAY I *LIKED* ANY OF THEM.

WAIT. *WHAT?*

YOUR TEAM DID AN *EXTRAORDINARY* THING, AND *SURVIVED* IT TOO. DAMN NEAR *MIRACLE*. SAYS A LOT ABOUT YOU ALL.

I'M NOT ABOUT TO DISBAND A RESOURCE THAT VALUABLE.

I WANT TO TASK YOU WITH SOMETHING THAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME.

THAT'S WHY I'M HERE?

CAN I GO OUTSIDE AND COME BACK IN AGAIN?

DO YOU NEED TIME TO CONSIDER TAKING OVER AS LEADER, OR CAN WE DISCUSS YOUR TEAM'S REMIT?

ME? YOU WANT--

ME, LEAD THE TEAM?

FROM WHAT LOGAN SAYS, YOU ALREADY DO.

THE X-MEN HAVE HAD THE *WORLD* THROWN AT THEM THESE LAST FEW YEARS.

ONE CRISIS HAS BLURRED INTO THE NEXT. THERE'S *NEVER* ENOUGH TIME TO DRAW A *LINE* UNDER ANYTHING.

TOO MANY *LOOSE ENDS.* NEVER ENOUGH *CLOSURE.*

ILLYANA FOUND CLOSURE.

MAYBE THAT'S THE *POSITIVE* LESSON I'M TAKING FROM *RECENT EVENTS.*

I WANT YOUR TEAM TO START CLEARING UP ALL OF THE X-MEN'S *UNFINISHED BUSINESS.*

ONCE A WEEK, WE COULD WASH YOUR CAR AND TAKE OUT THE TRASH, TOO.

I'M SERIOUS.

I KNOW THAT ABOUT YOU.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS. THE NIMROD YOU DEALT WITH TODAY WAS A PERFECT EXAMPLE.

SOONER OR LATER, ONE OF THE LOOSE ENDS WE KEEP LEAVING BEHIND IS GOING TO...

BITE US ON THE PROVERBIAL?

YES. AND THAT'S IF WE'RE LUCKY.

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE MY TEAM TO START?

HERE.

FIRST PRIORITY... FIND X-MAN.

FIND NATE GREY.

AND DO WHAT EXACTLY?

"BRING HIM HOME."

X-MANHATTAN.

HIS NIGHTS ARE SPENT NOT SLEEPING.

HIS DAYS ARE SPENT TRYING TO PLOT A ROUTE OUT OF THIS WORLD.

HE DOESN'T LIKE IT HERE. HERE DOESN'T LIKE HIM.

NATE GREY WAS BORN ON ANOTHER EARTH. THIS ONE DOES NOT SUIT HIM.

IT'S SCARED OF HIM. HE IS THE QUINTESSENCE OF EVERYTHING MUTANT THAT THIS WORLD IS AFRAID OF.

SINCE H.A.M.M.E.R. FELL, HE'S BEEN LYING LOW, TRYING TO DISCOVER A WAY, ANY WAY, OUT OF--

NOK NOK

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS.

AND EVERY FEW DAYS, EVERY FEW DAYS WHEN SOMETHING LIKE **THIS** HAPPENS, NATE GREY SEES THE **TRUTH.**

NO!

IT'S HARD TO SEE, BECAUSE IT'S SO **ELUSIVE.**

BUT EVERY NOW AND THEN, NATE GREY GETS A **FLASH** OF IT, AND HE REMEMBERS.

NO. NOT RIGHT.

HE REMEMBERS WHAT'S REAL AND WHAT ISN'T. WHAT'S **HARD TRUTH** AND WHAT'S JUST A **WOVEN LIE.**

NOT RIGHT.

ABANDONED H.A.M.M.E.R. HQ, NEW YORK.

AND HE IS REMINDED JUST HOW DIFFICULT ESCAPE IS EVER GOING TO BE.

YEEEAAARRRGH

MUST YOU SCREAM, NATHAN?

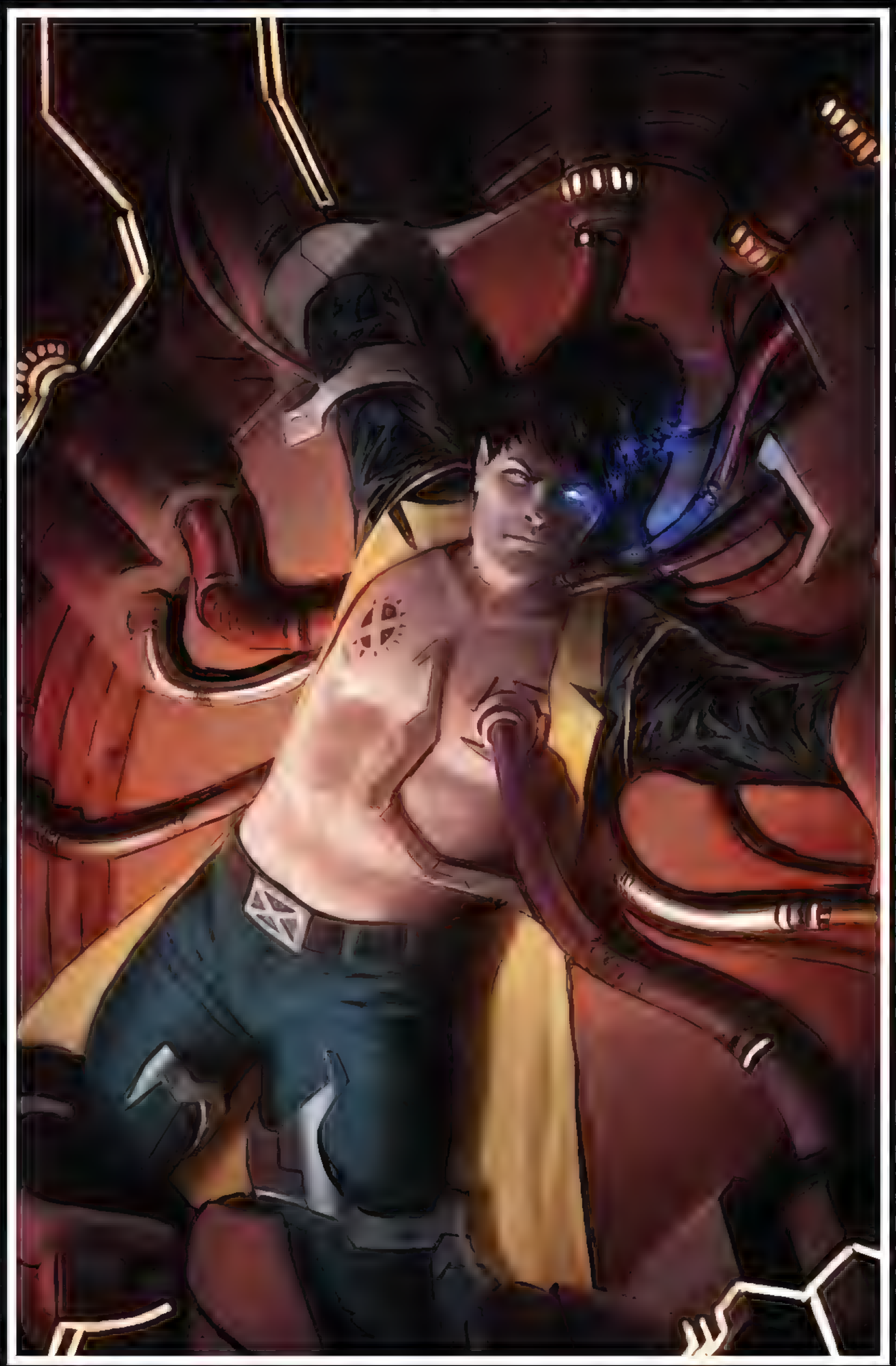
I'M TRYING TO WORK HERE.

TO BE CONTINUED!

LEANDRO FERNANDEZ '11

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CONTINUES NEXT MONTH!



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NEW MUTANTS®

"UNFINISHED BUSINESS"

PART 2

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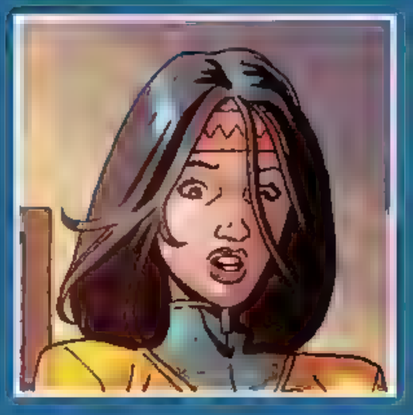
PREVIOUSLY IN

NEW MUTANTS

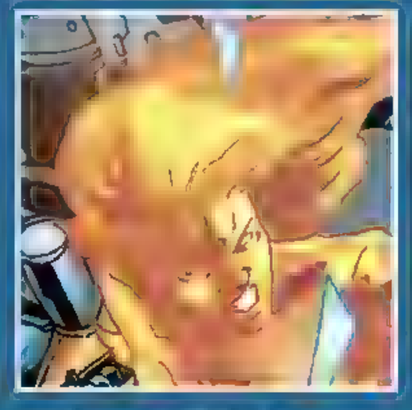
The recent battles the X-Men were involved in have left too many loose ends, too much unfinished business, so Cyclops has tasked the New Mutants team to take care of it. He chooses Dani Moonstar to lead the team, much to Dani's surprise.

Their first mission is to find Nate Grey, the mutant known as X-Man, and bring him home. X-Man, an incredibly powerful mutant, had recently resurfaced after being thought dead.

It turns out that someone else was aware of X-Man's return... the villain known as Sugar Man. He captured X-Man and chained him into a strange machine that keeps him sedated...and serves another nefarious purpose.

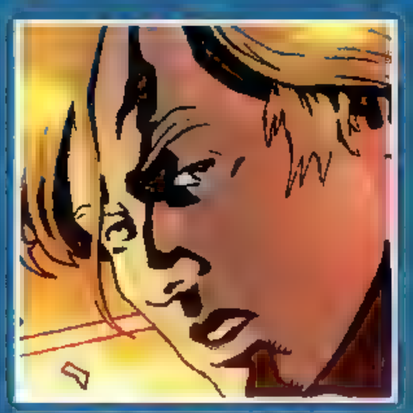


DANI MOONSTAR



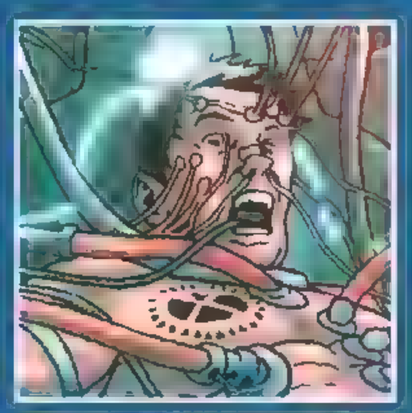
MAGMA

SUNSPOT



CYPHER

WARLOCK



X-MAN

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YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW WHERE TO LOOK, AND WHAT TO LOOK FOR.

THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY.

THEY SAY, A MAN LIKE THAT, A MAN WHO CAN OFFER YOU A **SWEET DEAL** LIKE THAT, HE WON'T MAKE HIMSELF **EASY** TO FIND.

TOO MANY PEOPLE WOULD WANT A **PIECE** OF HIM IF HE WAS OUT IN THE OPEN, YOU KNOW?

UNDER LEGACY ©2011

HE NEEDS TO STAY ON THE SLY, SO THAT THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO FIND HIM ARE THE ONES WHO **REALLY** MAKE AN EFFORT.

BECAUSE THEY **REALLY NEED** WHAT HE'S GOT.

SO THEY'VE GOT TO KNOW WHERE TO LOOK, AND WHAT TO LOOK FOR.

NEW YORK.

RONNY USED TO BE ABLE TO BREAK THINGS WITH HIS VOICE.

SINCE HE HIT PUBERTY, HE COULD DO THAT. ALWAYS HAD A FINE SINGING VOICE. SANG IN HIS HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR, SANG IN A BAND. STRONG VOICE.

GOT TO BE WHERE, CERTAIN NOTES, IF HE HIT THEM RIGHT, COULD SHATTER A **DINNER PLATE**, OR BLOW OUT A **WINDOW**, OR KNOCK A PERSON DOWN FROM **TWENTY FEET** AWAY.

THE DAY RONNY TURNED THIRTEEN, HE REALIZED HE HAD BEEN BORN **SPECIAL**. BORN WITH A **GIFT**.

THEN ONE MORNING IT WAS **M-DAY** AND MUTANTS LIKE HIM ALL AROUND THE WORLD LOST THEIR SPECIAL GIFTS.

#TOO3

HE'S BEEN LOOKING FOR A WAY TO BE SPECIAL AGAIN EVER **SINCE**.

YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW **WHERE** TO LOOK, AND **WHAT** TO LOOK FOR.

KEEP OUT

KEEP OUT

HEY? HELLO?

IS IT TRUE THERE'S A GUY HERE WHO HELPS PEOPLE?

IS IT?

CAN HE *HELP* ME?

HE CAN'T GIVE YOU BACK WHATEVER YOU LOST, BUT HE CAN GIVE YOU SOMETHING *ELSE* INSTEAD.

LIKE WHAT?

LIKE *ANYTHING*. IT CAN'T BE A *MUTANT* GIFT. HE CAN'T DO *THAT*.

BUT IT'LL BE *SOMETHING*.

WHAT DOES IT COST? DOES IT COST A *LOT*, BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE--

JUST COSTS YOUR *TIME* AND *HELP*. YOU HELP HIM, HE HELPS *YOU*.

HELP HIM *WHAT?*

FIND WHAT HE'S *LOOKING* FOR.

"WHAT HE'S REALLY LOOKING FOR."

WHY *HERE?*

NATE GREY'S LAST KNOWN WHEREABOUTS WERE WITH OSBORN AND *H.A.M.M.E.R.*

THIS WAS *OSBORN CENTRAL* BEFORE THE WHEELS CAME OFF AND EVERYONE SAW HIM FOR THE *NUTCAKE* HE TRULY WAS.

I GOTTA ASK...DO WE REALLY *WANNA* FIND NATE GREY?

THAT'S THE ASSIGNMENT CYCLOPS GAVE US.

FEELS A LITTLE LIKE THIS TEAM IS JUST *CLEANING UP* AFTER THE SENIORS.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

IT'S BETTER *FINISHED*, BOBBY. IT'S THE *ONE* IMPORTANT THING THE X-MEN SHOULD HAVE BEEN DOING AS THEY WENT ALONG.

TOO MANY SKELETONS, TOO MANY CUPBOARDS, TOO MANY *NASTY SURPRISES* COMING BACK TO HAUNT US.

I *GUESS.*

BUT NATE GREY'S LIKE *FREAKY POWERFUL* AND STUFF. THE DUDE'S *SCARY.*

DO WE *REALLY* WANT TO MESS WITH HIM?

HE'S ONE OF US. THAT'S *ALL* THAT MATTERS.

I'VE *FOUND* SOMETHING.

A CLUE, DOUG?

LIKE A CLUE.

ONLY BIGGER.

WILL IT *HURT?*

HURT? *NO.*

WELL, *MAYBE.*

BUT NOT FOR *LONG*, AND NOT SO YOU'LL CARE *AFTERWARDS.*

WHAT KIND OF NAME IS *"SUGAR MAN"?*

MINE.

WHAT'S *YOUR* NAME?

RONNY.

LIKE RONALD?

LIKE.

YOU *AFRAID* OF ME, RONNY?

NO, SIR.

NO, YOU *ARE.* I CAN *SMELL* IT.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID.

WHERE DO YOU *GET* THESE POWERS FROM?

I *MAKE* THEM.

THEY DON'T COME FROM YOUR *GENES*, RONNY, THE WAY I'D *LIKE.*

THEY'RE *ARTIFICIAL BOOSTS.* A LITTLE TECH, A RADICAL *REWORKING* OF THE MUTATE BONDING PROCESS--

I SEE THAT BLANK LOOK. IT'S OKAY. IT'S *SCIENCE*, RONNY. THE *BEST* I CAN DO.

THE POWERS ARE *REAL* GOOD.

WE'VE ALL GOT ONE.

SNFF--

AND WHAT--

WHAT DO *YOU* WANT? IN *RETURN?*

OH, *RONNY*, YOU THINK I'M SOME KIND OF *SICK FREAK?* IS *THAT* WHAT YOU THINK?

I JUST WANT... *HELP.*

YOU KNOW HOW *BAD* YOU WANT TO BE THE PERSON YOU *USED* TO BE, RONNY?

I WANT THAT *TOO.*

I DON'T *LIKE* IT HERE. I DON'T LIKE *THIS PLACE.*

I WANT TO GO *HOME.* I WANT MY *OLD LIFE* BACK.

WHERE'S HOME? ARE YOU FROM OUT OF STATE?

YES, RONNY. HE'S FROM *OUT OF STATE.*

I WANT TO GO HOME, RONNY, AND I NEED FRIENDS TO HELP ME *FIND THE WAY.*

WILL *YOU* BE MY FRIEND AND DO THAT?

DO THESE GUYS HELP YOU?

ARE *THEY* YOUR FRIENDS?

OF COURSE WE DO.

WE'RE ONE BIG TEAM!

NOT A TEAM...A FAMILY!

THESE GUYS ARE GREAT. THEY HELP ME A LOT.

BUT I NEED MORE FRIENDS, YOU SEE, RONNY, BECAUSE THERE'S ALWAYS A LOT TO DO.

THESE GUYS LOOK AFTER THE PLACE, AND KEEP ME SAFE.

THEY MAKE SURE NOBODY GETS IN WHO SHOULDN'T GET IN.

SO THEY'RE BUSY. AND I NEED OTHER FRIENDS TO HELP FIND MY WAY HOME.

I'LL DO THAT.

I-I'LL DO THAT.

OKAY, THEN.

LET'S SEE ABOUT GETTING YOU A GIFT.

THIS OFFICIAL X-MEN BUSINESS?

WE'RE LOOKING FOR...FOR ONE OF OUR OWN.

THIS H.A.M.M.E.R. FACILITY HAS BEEN CLOSED AND SEALED ON STATE DEPARTMENT ORDERS.

THE WHOLE SITE'S BEING DE-COMMISSIONED.

ANY PARTICULAR REASON YOU CHOSE HERE?

FOLLOWING A LEAD.

CONVENIENT.

VICTORIA--

I'M JUST SAYING.

AND SNOOPING IS ANOTHER WORD.

VICTORIA.

THE POINT IS, THERE'S NO ONE HERE.

IN FACT, THERE'S NOTHING HERE AT ALL EXCEPT THE MOST INSANELY DANGEROUS TECH.

THIS IS THE THIRD TIME IN A MONTH I'VE HAD TO BRING SUPPORT IN BECAUSE THE DECOMMISSIONING TEAM HAS DISTURBED A FRESH PIECE OF CRAZY OSBORN HARDWARE.

WE CAN HANDLE DANGEROUS, SIR.

I HAVE NO DOUBT.

I'M JUST SAYING, THAT THERE'S NOBODY HERE TO FIND, AND YOU COULD END UP GETTING IN THE WAY.

BECAUSE THERE'S A LONG CASE HISTORY OF X-KIDS GETTING IN THE WAY AND MAKING THINGS INFINITELY WORSE FOR EVERYBODY.

VICTORIA.

WE'RE NOT "X-KIDS," WE--

MY TEAM DOESN'T WANT TO CAUSE A *PROBLEM*, SIR.

IT'S *ALREADY* PRETTY CLEAR THIS ISN'T WHERE WE NEED TO LOOK.

JUST HAD TO CROSS IT *OFF* THE LIST.

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR SEARCH.

GOOD LUCK WITH THIS SITE.

MISS HAND, GOOD LUCK WITH THE PERSONALITY.

ARE WE *REALLY* LEAVING?

WELL, IT'S A DEAD END, PLUS, IF WE'D STAYED ANY LONGER, I WOULD HAVE PUNCHED A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, AND *THAT* WOULDN'T HAVE ENDED WELL.

OH, OKAY.

IT'S JUST THAT THIS *IS* THE PLACE.

SO... SHOW US.

YEAH, RONNY, SHOW US.

I DON'T KNOW...

UHK--

UHHKK--

TAZETAH

WOW.

COOL GIFT.

FEELS *FUNNY*. FEELS LIKE I'M *CHOKING*.

IT'S *REALLY* COOL.

SO, RONNY. READY?

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?

I'M GOING TO OPEN A DOOR, RONNY. YOU GO *THROUGH*, TELL ME WHAT'S ON THE *OTHER* SIDE.

IS THAT *ALL?*

REALLY QUICK, REALLY *SIMPLE.*

WAIT HERE WHILE I SET UP.

IF YOU CAN, YOU SHOULD GET *OUT* OF HERE.

HUH?

W-WHO ARE YOU?

DOES THAT *HURT?*

YEAH, IT *HURTS.* I CAN'T GET OUT.

THIS IS THE OMEGA MACHINE, AND I'M *STUCK* IN IT.

WHAT'S AN OMEGA MACHINE?

IT OPENS THE DOORS. THE DOORS OF *CREATION*. I'M THE *ONLY* ONE WHO CAN MAKE IT DO THAT.

YOU'RE NOT STUCK.

YOU SHOULD *GET OUT*. GET *RIGHT OUT* OF HERE.

RUN.

W-WHY?

BECAUSE YOU WILL EITHER LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO REGRET *EVER* BEING A PART OF THIS.

OR YOU JUST WON'T LIVE *LONG* ENOUGH.

W-WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

NATE.

DON'T LISTEN TO *HIM*, MAN. HE'S NOT *WELL*.

SUGAR MAN IS *READY* FOR YOU.

ANY OF YOU GUYS COMING WITH ME?

SUGAR MAN TOLD YOU, RONNY.

WE GOT JOBS TO DO HERE. YOU'LL BE FINE.

LOOK AT THE WRITING. THE *GRAFFITI.*

LIKE ANY *OTHER* DEAD LOT.

SOME OF IT'S JUST *VANDALISM.* SOME OF IT'S *TAGGING.*

THERE'S *WILDSTYLE,* WHICH IS PRETTY *HARD* TO EXTRACT MEANING FROM.

BUT THERE'S *CODE* HERE TOO.

CODE, SELF-FRIEND?

YOU EVER HEAR OF THE *HOBO CODE?*

IT'S A SYSTEM OF SYMBOLS EVOLVED TO HELP THE HOMELESS COMMUNITY.

INFORMATION, WARNINGS, DIRECTIONS.

THE CODE CAN TELL A HOBO WHERE HE COULD GET *FOOD,* OR FIND A *FRIENDLY HOUSE,* WHERE THERE MIGHT BE WORK...

...OR WHERE THE COPS WERE *ROUGH,* OR THERE WAS A *MEAN* YARD-DOG.

SOMEONE'S BEEN LEAVING *CODE MARKS* HERE, FOR PEOPLE WHO *KNOW* TO LOOK FOR THEM.

YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW *WHERE* TO LOOK, AND *WHAT* TO LOOK FOR.

AND YOU'VE GOT TO *WANT* TO FIND WHAT THEY'RE LEADING YOU TO.

WHICH IS *WHAT?*

SOME ARE CLAIMING THEY CAN GET YOU YOUR *POWERS* BACK.

IF YOU'VE *LOST* THEM.

MUTANT POWERS? IS *THAT* WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?

NO, IT'S WHAT THE *WALLS* ARE SAYING, AND IT'S *PROBABLY* A LIE.

BECAUSE THIS *WHOLE PLACE* IS A *LIE*. IT'S A *GOOD* LIE, IT EVEN FOOLED *THE AVENGERS*.

BUT REALITY HERE IS *FALSE*. THIS *ISN'T* AN EMPTY BUILDING.

THERE IS A *MISPRISION* IN THE LANGUAGE OF *ACTUALITY*. THE WAY CERTAIN SHADOWS SIT, THE WAY LIGHT FALLS...

...THE WAY REFLECTED SOUND IN A SPACE DOESN'T QUITE *MATCH* THE VOLUME OF THE SPACE ITSELF.

YOU CAN *SEE* THAT? YOU CAN *READ* THAT?

REALITY HERE IS *WARPED*.

THERE ARE PEOPLE HERE WHO *DON'T WANT* TO BE FOUND, UNLESS THE *RIGHT* PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR THEM.

REALITY WARPING...

THAT WAS IN *NATE GREY'S* PLAYBOOK.

DOUG, *READ* THE CODE.

SHOW US HOW TO *GET IN*.

HERE'S THE DOOR, RONNY.

YOU JUST *GO* THROUGH.

WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE?

THAT'S *MY* QUESTION TO *YOU.*

IT *COULD* BE MY HOME, IN WHICH CASE, I'LL BE *VERY* HAPPY YOU'VE FOUND IT FOR ME.

OH...

OH, MY GOD, WHAT THE--

SHAME.

AW WELL, HE SUCKED ANYWAY.

MAYBE. STILL, WE'RE GOING TO NEED *ANOTHER* SCOUT.

CHAK OOOM

OH, MY GOD. IT'S SUGAR MAN.

IT'S SUGAR MAN!

DAMN RIGHT IT'S SUGAR MAN! I'D ASK WHO YOU ARE BUT I DON'T CARE.

ALL RIGHT, MY FRIENDS! MY BEAUTIFUL *NEW MUTATES!*

SHOW THEM THE DOOR!

TO BE CONTINUED...

LEANDRO FERNANDEZ '11

NEW MUTANTS

MARVEL

27

"UNFINISHED BUSINESS"

PART 3

ABNETT
LANNING
FERNANDEZ
MOSSA

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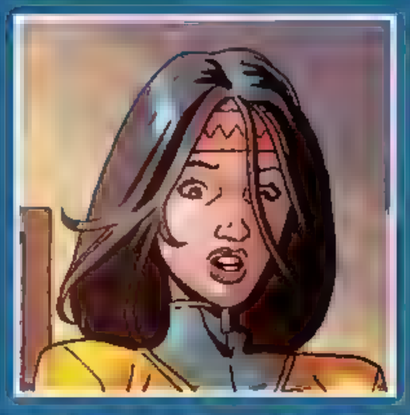
PREVIOUSLY IN

NEW MUTANTS

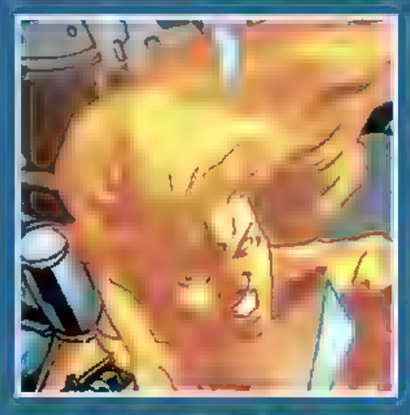
The recent battles the X-Men were involved in have left too many loose ends, too much unfinished business, so Cyclops has tasked the New Mutants team to take care of it. He chooses Dani Moonstar to lead the team, much to Dani's surprise.

Their first mission is to find Nate Grey, the mutant known as X-Man, and bring him home. X-Man, an incredibly powerful mutant, had recently resurfaced after being thought dead.

The team discovers that the villain known as Sugar Man has captured X-Man and is using his reality-warping ability to power a machine in the hopes of finding a way to his home dimension.

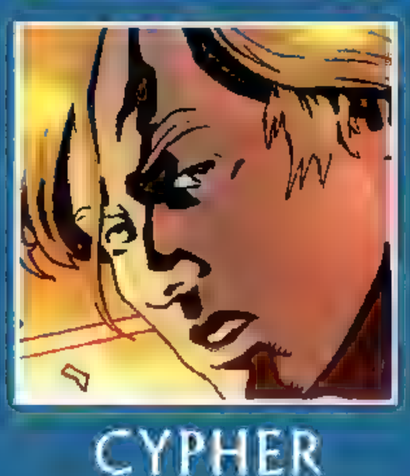


DANI MOONSTAR



MAGMA

SUNSPOT



CYPHER

WARLOCK

X-MAN

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Editor in Chief: Axel Alonso Chief Creative Officer: Joe Quesada
Publisher: Dan Buckley Exec. Producer: Alan Fine

THE *POINT* OF THESE BRIEFINGS IS TO KEEP EVERYONE UP TO SPEED ON *ANY* THREAT FIGURES THE X-MEN HAVE FACED BEFORE.

IF THEY REAPPEAR, WE WON'T *GET* A WARNING. WE WON'T GET TIME TO *GOOGLE* THEM.

EVERYBODY NEEDS TO *KNOW* WHAT THEY'RE CAPABLE OF, AND HOW TO HANDLE THEM.

SO TODAY, *SUGAR MAN.*

MUTANT, GENETICIST, BIOLOGIST. AN ÉMIGRÉ TO THIS WORLD FROM THE *APOCALYPSE* TIMELINE.

AMORAL AND VINDICTIVE, HE PERFECTED THE MUTATE BONDING PROCESS FOR GENOSHA.

HE'S *EXCEPTIONALLY* DANGEROUS. RAZOR-SHARP TEETH AND CLAWS, A PREHENSILE TONGUE CHARGED WITH BIO-ENERGY. HE CAN ALSO CONTROL HIS BODY MASS.

NO PUN INTENDED, BUT HE IS ALSO ONE OF THE SINGLE MOST *CAPABLE* HAND-TO-HAND COMBATANTS WE KNOW ABOUT.

YES, DANI?

HIM? *REALLY?*

...SHE ASKED, VAGUELY CURIOUS, ONE SLOW THURSDAY AFTERNOON THREE WEEKS AGO.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
3 of 3

TIME TO FIND OUT.

OH, YOU'RE A LITTLE MINX!

WHY'D YOU COME STICKING YOUR NOSE IN WHERE IT ISN'T WANTED?

NUGH!

SOMEONE BACK DANI UP! SHE'S GOING AT SUGAR MAN SOLO!

WHAT DID HE CALL THESE FREAKS? MUTATES?

WE'RE NOT FREAKS! WE'RE BETTER THAN YOU!

BETTER BY DESIGN!

UGHN!

DEAR GOD, I WAS RIGHT!

LOOK! IT'S NATE GREY!

IT'S X-MAN!

HELP ME

SUBDUE THEM!

SUBDUE THIS!

AGHH!

SLCK!

KLOMP!

OUGH!

NATHAN? *NATE?*

WE'RE X-MEN FROM UTOPIA. WE'RE HERE TO *RESCUE* YOU.

X-MEN...

DO NOT STRUGGLE, NEWFRIEND--

WHAT IS THIS THING? WHAT HAVE THEY STRAPPED HIM *INTO?*

SOULFRIEND DOUG, THIS MECHANISM IS **NEURAL BONDED.**

DETACHING= EXTREME RISK.

HE WANTS TO TELL THEM IT'S CALLED **THE OMEGA MACHINE.** *OSBORN FUSED HIM TO IT.*

HE WANTS TO TELL THEM, BUT HIS MOUTH CAN'T MANAGE ALL THE WORDS.

HE'S BEEN WIRED INTO IT FOR **MONTHS.** *HE'S* **MUTANT FUEL** *TO KEEP IT STOKED.*

IT CHANNELS HIS MUTANT POWERS TO WARP **REALITY** *AND OPEN DOORS TO* **OTHER** *PLACES.*

IT HURTS **SO** *MUCH.*

HE WAS OSBORN'S PLAYTHING BEFORE THE FALL OF H.A.M.M.E.R.

SO WAS SUGAR MAN. WHEN THE WALLS CAME DOWN, SUGAR MAN ESCAPED FROM HIS CELL, AND FOUND THE OMEGA MACHINE IN THE RUBBLE. FOUND **NATE GREY.**

AND NATE GREY BECAME **SUGAR MAN'S** *PLAYTHING* **INSTEAD.**

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH NATHAN GREY?

WHATEVER I *WANT* TO. HE'S MY TICKET HOME.

HOME?

AMARA, BEHIND YOU!

YOU'RE NOT GOING *ANYWHERE.*

LOOK OUT!

I SAW HIM.

UGHNN!

DANI'S THE ONE WHO NEEDS HELP!

I CAN'T TAKE A SHOT!

I'LL *HIT* HER!

DAMMIT!

GAH!

DON'T FORCE US TO HURT YOU!

DO NOT MAKE US *HURT* YOU. FOR THE LOVE OF *GOD*.

DO YOURSELVES A FAVOR. *LISTEN* TO HER.

NHH!

DAH!

AGHH! DAMMIT!

HOLY CRAP!

MADRE DE DIOS...

YOU PERSISTENT--

OKAY. YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD.

...KILL ME...

WARLOCK! STOP! YOU'RE KILLING HIM!

N-NO....

...I'M ASKING YOU TO KILL ME. I CAN'T BEAR THIS ANYMORE.

PLEASE, NATHAN. LISTEN CAREFULLY.

WE WILL UNCOUPLE YOU FROM THIS MACHINE ALIVE, AND EXTRACT YOU FROM THIS LOCATION.

THIS WILL ALL BE OVER SOON.

NO...

...HE WON'T LET US GO...

UNLESS...

EVERYTHING HAS BEEN ABOUT SUGAR MAN FINDING A WAY OUT. A WAY BACK TO THE ITERATION OF REALITY WHERE APOCALYPSE RULES.

HE'S FORCED NATE TO OPEN DOOR AFTER DOOR, SEARCHING FOR A WAY.

HE'S MANUFACTURED **MUTATES** OUT OF THE POOR AND VULNERABLE, AND SENT THEM OUT LIKE **GUINEA PIGS,** TO SCOUT EACH NEW WORLD HE FINDS.

HE'S SO DESPERATE HE'S TRIED **EVERYTHING.**

SO WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU GIVE HIM WHAT HE **WANTS?**

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU PUT **ALL** YOUR STRENGTH AND WILLPOWER INTO THAT?

IS **THAT** HOW YOU GET HIM TO LEAVE YOU ALONE?

WHAT'S HE **DOING?**

DANGER, NEWFRIEND! NEURODES ARE **BURNING** OUT!

OH, MY WORD!

NHH!

I **KNOW** THAT LIGHT! THAT **AIR!**

I **TOLD** YOU, YOU'RE NOT GOING **ANYWHERE!**

GNAAH!

WHOOOAA!

YES! YES! THIS IS THE PLACE! THIS IS IT!

JUST LET ME BE! *THIS* IS WHAT I WANTED! JUST *THIS!*

GO BACK TO YOUR *OWN* MISERABLE WORLD! LEAVE ME THE *HELL* ALONE!

UGH!

IS THAT TOO MUCH TO ASK?

MHHRR! AFTER ALL YOU'VE DONE?

YES!

SNAP

BOBBY!

GHAAAAH!

DO IT!

SHRRAAK!

GET COMMANDER ROGERS.

WHAT AR--

NOW, DOUG!

THIS WAS HERE ALL ALONG?

ALL OF IT?

CONCEALED BY AN ILLUSION. THE MACHINE GENERATED ITS OWN DISGUISE FIELD.

IT WAS *REAL.*

IT WAS REALITY *WARPED.*

WE'LL TAKE THIS *SUGAR MAN* INTO CUSTODY.

BE CAREFUL. HE'S *VERY* DANGEROUS.

UTOPIA WILL PROVIDE A FULL AND *ANNOTATED* CASE FILE OF *SPECIES CRIMES* YOU MAY WANT TO CONSIDER IN RELATION TO HIS ACTIVITIES.

THESE KIDS WILL NEED CARE AND TREATMENT *TOO.*

THEIR UPGRADES MUST BE REMOVED AS *SOON* AS POSSIBLE.

WHAT CONCERNS *ME* IS THE ONE WHO WAS *DOING* ALL THIS REALITY WARPING.

WE'LL DEFINITELY BE TAKING *HIM* INTO CUSTODY FOR--

NO. HE'S COMING WITH US.

AND MY DAD'S BIGGER THAN *YOUR* DAD. BLAH.

A REALITY-WARPING MUTANT IS A MATTER OF *INTERNATIONAL SECURITY.*

I HAVE MY ORDERS.

AND I HAVE *MINE.*

COMMANDER, ROGERS, NATE GREY IS A MEMBER OF THE *SUMMERS* FAMILY.

VICTORIA, CONSIDER YOUR ORDERS *REVISED.*

A *REALITY-WARPING MUTANT--*

IS *X-MEN* BUSINESS.

THANK YOU, SIR. HE IS ALSO NO *LONGER* A THREAT. IT LOOKS LIKE HIS POWER'S GONE. *BURNED OUT.*

MS. MOONSTAR, PLEASE TELL SCOTT MY THOUGHTS ARE WITH THIS... *RELATIVE* OF HIS.

I HOPE HE RECOVERS *QUICKLY.*

HIS *HEALTH.* HE *MEANS* HIS *HEALTH.*

GOOD JOB, BY THE WAY.

X UTOPIA.

HE'S A MESS. OSBORN'S MACHINE *FRIED* HIM.

ACUTE NERVE DAMAGE. HIS POWERS ARE CHOPPED BACK TO *RESIDUAL TELEKINESIS.*

HE'LL LEARN TO *ACCEPT* THIS CHANGE.

IT'S NOT *EASY.*

YOU DID IT.

WELL, I'M *VERY* SPECIAL.

MUTATIS MUTANDIS, MANAGING CHANGE IS OUR *SPECIALTY.*

THANK YOU, DANI.

I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.

NATE... UH..HI. LISTEN...I KNOW WE'VE NEVER BEEN CLOSE, BUT I...

I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE A PLACE WITH US, HERE.

YOUR METAPHORICAL *FAMILY OF X?*

NO, JUST *WHATEVER* WE ARE.

LOOK, NATE. I KNOW THINGS HAVEN'T BEEN VERY SMOOTH BETWEEN US, BUT YOU CAN'T CLOSE THE BOOK ON FAMILY.

IT'S A CONVERSATION THAT NEVER ENDS. THERE WILL *ALWAYS* BE UNFINISHED BUSINESS BETWEEN US.

BUT LET ME JUST SAY ONE THING...

THIS IS YOUR HOME WHENEVER YOU NEED IT TO BE, STARTING NOW.

HOME.

YOU KNOW, I UNDERSTAND PEOPLE WILL TRY ALMOST *ANYTHING* TO GET THERE.

NEXT: FAMILY THERAPY

NEXT ISSUE

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MARVEL

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NEW MUTANTS

ABNETT
LANNING
RYAN
LEE
CURIEL

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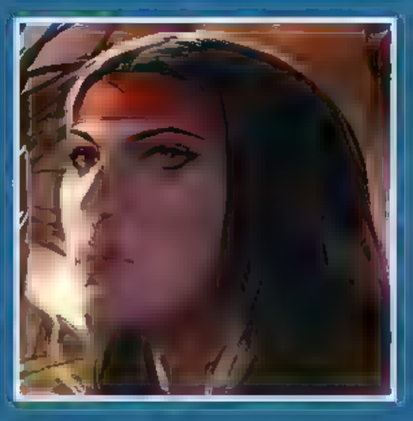
PREVIOUSLY IN

NEW MUTANTS

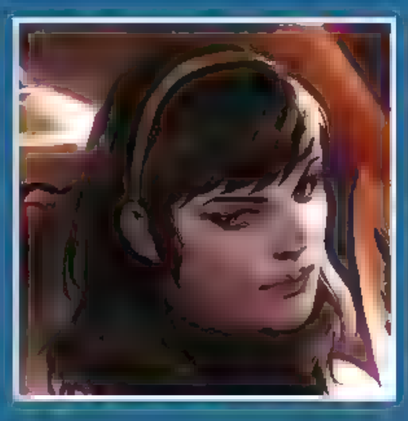
The recent battles the X-Men were involved in have left too many loose ends, too much unfinished business, so Cyclops has tasked the New Mutants team to take care of it. He chooses Dani Moonstar to lead the team, much to Dani's surprise.

The team is far from peak efficiency: the former leader, Cannonball, has been out of commission since he was tortured on a mission, team member Magik has been placed under arrest for endangering the entire world with her magical powers and the mutant known as X-Man has recently joined the team from another dimension, after being drained of all his telekinetic powers by a super villain's sadistic experiments.

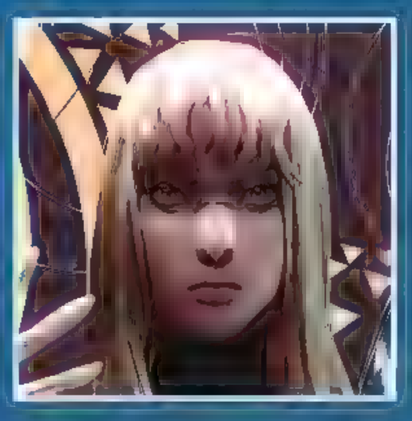
It seems that Dani has inherited quite a mess...



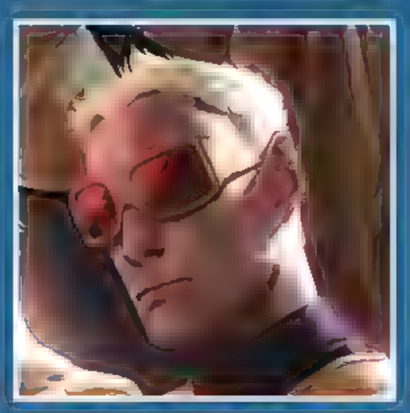
DANI MOONSTAR



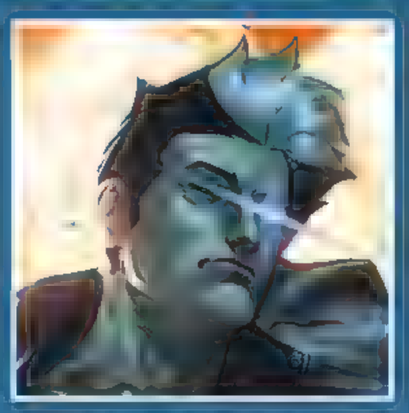
KARMA



MAGIK



CANNONBALL



X-MAN

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Cover: Jorge Molina

Editor: Sebastian Girner Senior Editor: Nick Lowe
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UTOPIA, LANDING DECK.

WELL, IF IT ISN'T THE FAMOUS DANI MOONSTAR.

THANKS FOR INVITING ME HERE. PROMISE I'LL BE ON MY BEST BEHAVIOR.

THANKS FOR COMING.

AND BELIEVE ME I DON'T WANT YOUR BEST BEHAVIOR. I WANT YOUR...REGULAR BEHAVIOR.

GOD, NO ONE WANTS THAT. USUALLY ENDS UP BLOODY.

I *WANT* BLOODY. I WANT YOU TO GO FOR THE *THROAT*.

DO YOU REALLY?

I DON'T KNOW HOW *USEFUL* I'M GOING TO BE TO YOU, MIND.

WE'RE LIKELY DEALING WITH A RANGE OF SPECIFIC ISSUES I FRANKLY HAVE *NO* EXPERIENCE OF.

WE'RE ALL *PEOPLE*.

THAT'S THE TRUTH.

"HE APPEARS TO BE BOTH A COWBOY AND AN INDIAN."

UTOPIA. MAIN CONTROL

THE PREFERRED TERM IS NATIVE AMERICAN.

HIS NAME IS GUS GRIM.

THEN HE APPEARS TO BE BOTH A COWBOY AND AN INDIAN *AND* HE HAS A STUPID NAME.

HE'S A COGNITIVE THERAPIST FROM COLORADO. DANI KNEW HIM YEARS AGO.

HE USED TO WORK IN THE CHEYENNE COMMUNITIES.

LIKE A *SOCIAL WORKER?*

I SUPPOSE.

SO THIS IS A VISIT FROM AN OLD FRIEND?

NO. HE'S HERE TO WORK WITH THE MORE *DAMAGED* MEMBERS OF HER TEAM.

AS A THERAPIST? *AS A THERAPIST?*

THIS IS DANI'S CALL.

YOU LET HER BRING IN *AN EXTERNAL THERAPIST?*

IT'S IMPORTANT I SUPPORT HER COMMAND DECISIONS.

SHE WANTED SOMEONE *IMPARTIAL.* I THINK SHE'S CONSCIOUS OF HOW *INCESTUOUS* OUR COMMUNITY IS SOMETIMES.

BUT HE'S...

PLEASE DON'T SAY HE'S "NOT ONE OF US" BECAUSE WE KNOW HOW POSITIVE *THAT* PHILOSOPHY CAN BE.

UTOPIA, THE DANGER ROOM

I CAN DO THIS! COME ON!

I USED TO BE ABLE TO LIFT A TANK!

NOW I HAVE TROUBLE LIFTING YOU?

ROOM SYSTEMS! PLEASE! PUT ME IN A COMBAT SIMULATION SO I CAN PUSH MYSELF PAST THIS!

REQUEST NOT PERMITTED.

THIS IS NATHAN GREY. NATE GREY. HE'S--

HE'S NEW HERE. HE'S TECHNICALLY THE SON OF OUR LEADER, CYCLOPS. EXCEPT HE'S FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION, SO...

ANYWAY, HIS POWERS WERE ALMOST OFF THE SCALE, BUT EVER SINCE WE FOUND HIM THEY'VE BEEN... WELL, GONE, MOSTLY.

ISSUES OF LOSS, THEN? OF SELF-WORTH?

NATE IS STILL GETTING ADJUSTED TO THE VERY LIMITED T.K. TALENT HE'S LEFT WITH.

"TEE KAY"?

TELEKINESIS.

SILLY OF ME.

I'D LIKE YOU TO TALK TO HIM SOMETIME. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I THINK THE MOST INTERESTING QUESTION IS...WHO'S THAT WATCHING HIM WITH SUCH INDECENT INTENSITY?

THAT'S HOPE SUMMERS.

YOU COULD SAY SHE WAS THE MUTANT MESSIAH, IF YOU WANTED TO BE TRITE.

FIRST NEW MUTANT BORN AFTER M-DAY. HER POWERS ARE IN A CLASS OF THEIR OWN.

NOT ACTUALLY MY CALL TO LET YOU TALK TO HER, BUT I CAN ASK.

WHAT'S THE CONNECTION HERE?

HOPE HAS SO FAR *REFUSED* TO MEET NATE.

SHE WAS RAISED AND TRAINED FOR YEARS BY A MAN NAMED *CABLE*.

THIS TOOK PLACE IN THE, *UHM*, *FUTURE*, AND CABLE IS NOW DEAD.

NATE IS... OKAY, CABLE AND NATE ARE THE SAME PERSON, BUT FROM *DIFFERENT* DIMENSIONS.

HE LOOKS LIKE A *YOUNGER VERSION* OF THE MAN SHE THOUGHT OF AS HER *FATHER*.

I'M *AWARE* HOW THIS MUST SOUND.

WE'RE *DEFINITELY* DEALING WITH A RANGE OF SPECIFIC ISSUES I FRANKLY HAVE NO EXPERIENCE OF.

LET'S START WITH SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE *LINEAR*, THEN.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, THOUGH, YOU SHOULD LET NATHAN FIGHT SOMETHING *REAL* IN THERE IF HE WANTS TO.

LET HIM HURT HIMSELF.

UTOPIA, INFIRMARY (SECURE WING)

YOU'RE MISTAKEN, MR. GRIM.

I DIDN'T *QUIT.*

YOU STEPPED DOWN AS TEAM LEADER. DANI MOONSTAR TOOK YOUR PLACE.

TEAM COULDN'T BE IN *BETTER* HANDS.

THEY COULD BE IN *YOUR* HANDS.

I'VE REVIEWED MISSION PROFILES. THE PERIOD KNOWN AS *AGE OF X*, YOU *EXCELLED* AS FIELD LEADER OF THE X-MEN.

I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT THAT.

NEITHER DO I. I'VE GOT *ONE* DAY HERE. *LOTS* TO COVER.

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE *CHATTING*.

WOW. GREAT ATTITUDE, *MR. THERAPIST*.

WHINE ABOUT MY APPROACH WHEN I'M *NOT* HERE TO LISTEN.

FOCUS.

IT'S TOUGH TO UNTANGLE *P.T.S.D.* FROM FEELINGS OF GUILT. THAT'S A *BASIC FACT*.

THERE'S *TRAUMA*, AND THERE'S A RELUCTANCE TO *EXPOSE* YOURSELF TO THAT TRAUMA.

SO I'VE GOT POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER?

MAN, I HOPE SO, OTHERWISE THIS IS JUST *SELF-INDULGENT*.

*YOU ARE & % *$% & UNBELIEVABLE!*

ANGER. OKAY.

AT LAST, AN ACTUAL *EMOTION* SHOWS UP.

YOU RESIGNED AS TEAM LEADER. YOU PLACED YOURSELF IN A *SECURE WARD*, AND REQUESTED *PSYCHIATRIC OBSERVATION*.

WELL, HERE IT IS. THIS IS WHAT YOU *ASKED* FOR.

SO SHUT UP AND LISTEN.

WHERE THE *HELL* DO YOU GET OFF WITH THIS?!

I WAS BURNED *HARD!* I PUSHED MYSELF *TOO* FIERCELY FOR *TOO* LONG!

THEN I ENDURED *TORTURE!* I SAW... *STUFF!*

AS A RESULT, MY *LEADERSHIP* WAS *COMPROMISED!*

YEAH, THAT'S JUST A BUNCH OF *EXCUSES.*

YOUR *ABILITY* TO LEAD ISN'T IN DOUBT. SO THIS MUST BE ABOUT *WILLINGNESS.*

WILLINGNESS? ARE YOU *KIDDING* ME?

I CARE ABOUT MY FRIENDS AND TEAMMATES SO MUCH I DON'T WANT TO RISK PUTTING THEM IN ANY DANGER!

YOU'RE *TIRED* AND YOU'RE *MESSED UP.* BUT YOUR REAL PROBLEM IS THAT YOU'RE *CONSCIENTIOUS.*

YOU'RE SO *DESPERATE* TO DO THINGS RIGHT, YOU'VE TAKEN AWAY YOUR *OPPORTUNITY* TO FAIL.

THERE'S *ANOTHER* WORD FOR THAT, AND YOU'RE *REALLY* NOT GOING TO LIKE IT.

UTOPIA INFIRMARY THERAPY UNIT

HIS NAME IS FACE.

HE IS SENSE DEPRIVED. EVERYTHING EXCEPT TOUCH. NO SIGHT, NO SMELL, NO SOUND.

YOU KNOW THAT BECAUSE YOU'RE A TELEPATH AND YOU'RE IN HIS HEAD?

HIS ONLY MEANS OF ARTICULATION IS TO EXPRESS ***CHRONIC FRUSTRATION*** BY VIOLENTLY DISCHARGING ENERGY, MR. GRIM.

HE EXISTS IN A WORLD HE ***CANNOT*** ENGAGE WITH.

MY BOND WITH HIM PROVIDES THE ONLY ***EXTERNALIZED INTERACTION*** HE CAN EVER KNOW.

HIS ONLY ROUTE FOR ***PERCEPTION.***

SO THAT MEANS HE REALLY MAKES ***YOU*** SPECIAL, DOESN'T HE?

WHAT?

WHAT?

THIS IS ONE OF THE FEW PLACES ON THE ***PLANET*** WHERE THERE ARE TELEPATHS AND EMPATHS ***EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK***, BUT THIS HAS TO BE ***YOU.***

WHY?

BECAUSE I CAN--

BECAUSE--

HOW DARE YOU!

I'LL LET YOU THINK ABOUT THAT.

THERE ARE ***OTHERS*** THAT COULD HELP YOU. YOU DON'T HAVE TO CARRY THIS ***ALONE.***

SO WHY ***ARE*** YOU? TRY FORMING AN ACCURATE ANSWER THAT DOESN'T INVOLVE THE WORD "SELFISH."

UTOPIA, RESTRAINT BLOCK

I DO NOT WANT TO CONVERSE WITH YOU.

MS. RASPUTIN, THAT'S THE MOST *HONEST* RESPONSE I'VE HEARD SINCE I GOT HERE.

MR. GRIM...

...I WASN'T TALKING TO *YOU.*

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

WHAT DO YOU--

OOOGHHH!

GKK--

NNSKGH

HURRY! HURRY!

WE'VE COME TO *RESCUE* YOU!

HURRY! LIMBO AWAITS YOUR RETURN!

GET YOU *OUT* OF HERE! *HURRY!*

YOU ARE SORCERESS-- QUEEN OF LIMBO!

HU-MANS HOLD YOU CAPTIVE HERE ON THE MORTAL PLANE! IT IS A DISGRACE!

THERE IS *VERY* LITTLE TIME! WE WILL *RELEASE* YOU!

WE WILL BE GONE BEFORE THEY EVEN *REALIZE!*

I DON'T *WANT* TO GO.

I DON'T *WANT* TO BE RESCUED.

WHAT?

NONSENSE!

THIS IS THE *PERFECT* MOMENT! WE FOUND THIS HU-MAN WHO WAS COMING HERE ANYWAY AND--

I WANT A *LIFE*. I WANT TO BE A PERSON WITH A *LIFE*.

IF I AM GOING TO HAVE *ANY* HOPE OF THAT, I NEED MY FRIENDS TO *TRUST* ME AGAIN.

YOU WILL NOT *SCREW THIS UP* FOR ME.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE *TALKING ABOUT!*

THEY'VE *TWISTED* YOUR MIND!

I THINK IT'S TIME TO ACTIVATE THE PROTOCOL DOCTOR STRANGE TAUGHT YOU.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

I WASN'T TALKING TO YOU.

I WAS TALKING TO *DANGER*.

PROTOCOL OF WARDING AND BANISHMENT ENACTED.

EEAAARRGHHHH!

THANK YOU, DANGER.

I WAS HOPING YOU WOULD TRY TO ESCAPE SO I COULD SEE IF MY RESTRAINTS WORKED.

ANOTHER TIME, MAYBE.

YOU'D BEST FETCH DANI. MR. GRIM PROBABLY NEEDS A CUP OF TEA AND A SIT-DOWN.

GEEZ.

DO I *WANT* TO KNOW WHAT THAT WAS ABOUT?

THEY'D BEEN RIDING INSIDE YOU SINCE BEFORE YOU ARRIVED.

YOU WERE THEIR *WAY IN.* A TROJAN HORSE.

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'LL BE COMING BACK TO UTOPIA NOW, *WILL* YOU, MR. GRIM?

UTOPIA LANDING DECK.

I WAS HOPING THIS INITIAL VISIT WOULD LEAD TO *REGULAR* SESSIONS.

THIS HAS PUT YOU *OFF,* HASN'T IT?

WHY WOULD YOU WANT ME TO DO THAT *REGULARLY?*

I WENT AFTER YOUR TEAM PRETTY HARD.

I DIDN'T MAKE ANY FRIENDS TODAY.

IT'S NOT ABOUT FRIENDS.

IN THE COMMUNITY, YOU ALWAYS DEALT WITH PROBLEMS CLEAN AND QUICK, TO MINIMIZE DAMAGE.

IF YOU EVER TOOK TIME TO BE ANYTHING OTHER THAN DIRECT, LIVES GOT HURT. OR LOST.

I'VE BEEN GIVEN A TEAM TO LEAD, GUS.

AND IT'S A MESS.

DANI, SOMETIMES PEOPLE NEED TIME TO--

WE'RE X-MEN, GUS. I THINK THAT APPROACH SUITS US.

WE WILL ***NEVER*** HAVE TIME TO SIT AROUND FEELING SORRY FOR OURSELVES OR NURSING WOUNDS.

WE NEED TO GET FIXED UP FAST SO WE CAN ***KEEP MOVING.***

WELL, OKAY. BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU EXPECT.

I EXPECT TO SEE YOU AGAIN NEXT WEEK.

IN THE MEANTIME, WE'LL THINK ABOUT YOUR ADVICE AND SEE WHERE IT GETS US.

X UTOPIA, DANGER ROOM.

SAFETY PROTOCOLS DISENGAGED! REENGAGE IMMEDIATELY! REENGAGE IMMEDIATELY!

NGGHH!

NHHH!

GOD--!

ROOM-- SHUT DOWN.

SO, *THIS* WAS DUMB.

GAAHH!

YOU DON'T HAVE *MUCH* IN THE WAY OF POWERS, AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO *DO* WITH THEM *ANYWAY.*

I DIDN'T HAVE ANY POWERS UNTIL RECENTLY. I WAS TRAINED TO GET BY WITHOUT.

EVEN NOW, I'M NOT *COMFORTABLE* USING THEM.

NATHAN SUMMERS SPENT ALL OF MY CHILDHOOD PREPARING ME TO FACE THE *REST* OF MY LIFE.

WOULD IT BE OKAY WITH YOU IF I TAUGHT YOU SOME OF THE THINGS HE TAUGHT ME?

I...

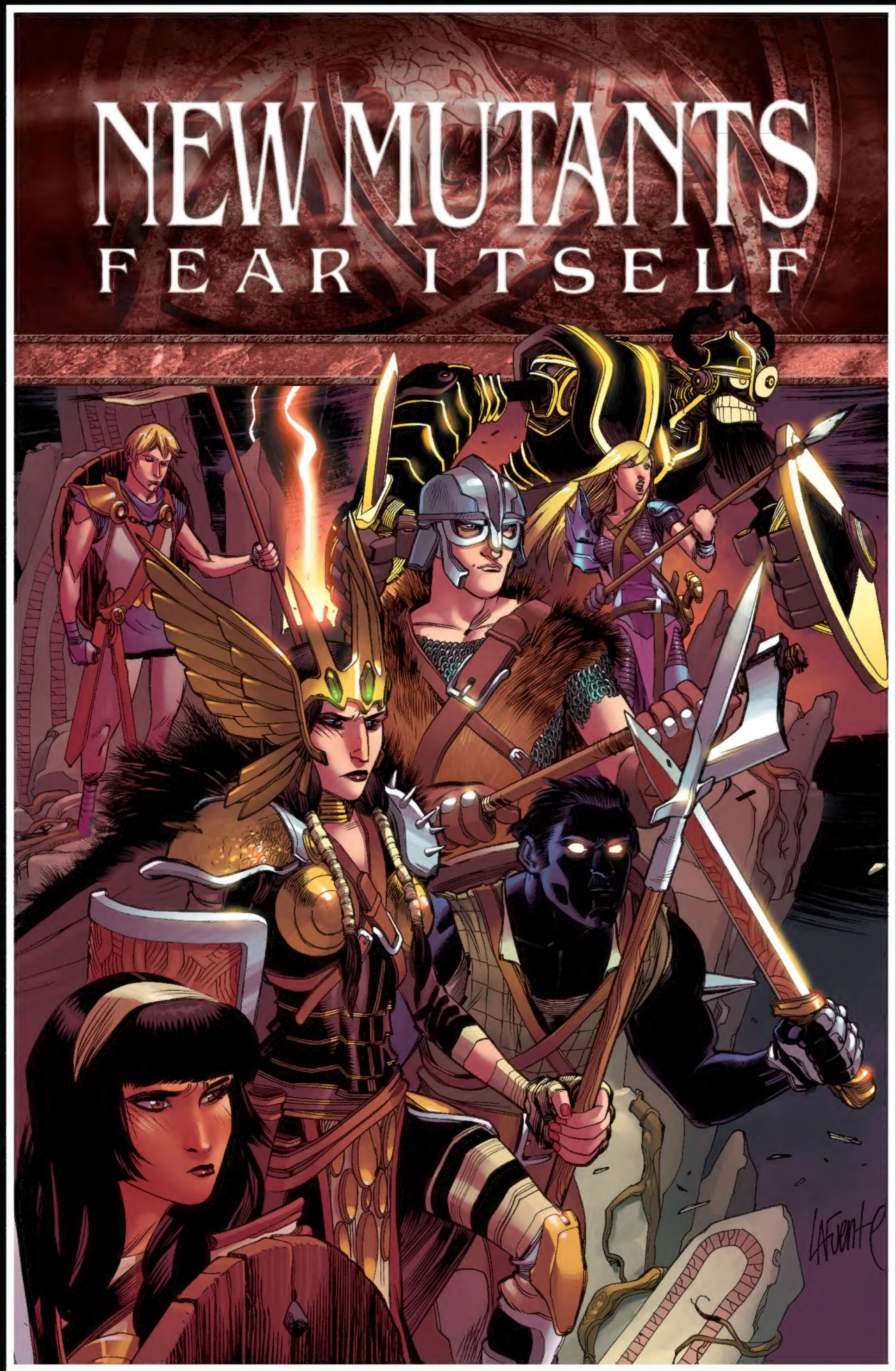
I'D LIKE THAT.

ROOM?

RESTART.

NEXT: FEAR ITSELF

NEXT ISSUE



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